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Report from Matanzas—Mortality statistics.

Passed Assistant Surgeon von Ezdorf reports, March 31, as follows: Eighteen deaths were reported in this city during the week ended March 28, 1903. The chief causes of death reported were as follows: Broncho-pneumonia 1, tuberculosis 3, arterio-sclerosis 1, meningitis 1, malarial cachexia 1, enteritis 1, heart disease 2, other causes 8. Annual rate of mortality for the week, 19.50 per 1,000. No quarantinable disease was reported in this district.

The SURGEON-GENERAL.

Report from Santiago.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Wilson reports, March 21, as follows:

Mortality statistics for the week ended March 21, 1903.

Causes of death.	Number.
Intermittent fever and malarial cachexia.....	4
Tubercle of lungs.....	4
Osteo sarcoma of mouth.....	1
Chronic alcoholism.....	1
Cerebral softening.....	1
Organic heart disease.....	1
Diarrhea and enteritis (under 2 years).....	2
Icterus neonatorum.....	1
Burns.....	1
Ill-defined or unspecified causes of death.....	2
Total.....	18

Annual rate of mortality for the week, 21.76 per 1,000. Estimated population, 43,000.

GERMANY.

Report from Berlin—Plague and cholera in various countries.

Consul-General Mason reports, March 20, as follows:

Plague.

British India.—During the week ended February 21 there were registered in the Bombay Presidency 15,461 plague cases (10,840 deaths), among which 1,118 cases (1,047 deaths) occurred in the city of Bombay and 28 cases (23 deaths) in the town and port of Karachi.

British South Africa.—In Port Elizabeth during the period from the 1st to the 14th of February 7 plague cases were registered. In Natal during the week ended February 7 there were 9 plague patients under treatment. The total number of plague cases recorded up to the 7th of February amounted to 63 (including 6 Europeans), with 34 deaths. Up to the 14th of February 20 further cases of plague were registered.

West Australia.—During the week ended January 30, according to the official bulletin, 3 new cases of plague were registered in Freemantle.

Plague and cholera.

British India.—In Calcutta during the week ended February 14 171 persons died of plague and 37 persons died of cholera.

Cholera.

Turkey.—In Damascus on the 16th and 17th of February, respectively, 1 new case of cholera and 2 deaths were registered.

Death rate of Berlin.

The death rate for the week, ended March 14 was somewhat higher than that of the two foregoing weeks, and amounted (calculated on the year) to 15.7 per thousand of the population, being thus lower than for the corresponding week of last year, in which it amounted to 16.8. In spite of this rise, however, two-thirds of the large German cities showed less favorable health conditions than Berlin, the rate of mortality of the following towns, among others, being considerably higher than that of Berlin, viz: Schöneberg (with 17), Hanover, Frankfurt-am-Main, Düsseldorf, Altona, Königsberg, Breslau, Cologne, Munich; also London, Paris, and Vienna. The following cities had a lower death rate than Berlin: Hamburg, Leipzig, Dresden, Charlottenburg (with 14.9 per thousand).

Causes of death.—Eighty-four deaths from consumption were registered during the week in question. Acute diseases of the respiratory organs showed an increase as compared with the foregoing week, claiming 55 victims. Acute diseases of the intestines were of less frequent occurrence, causing 37 deaths. There were 10 deaths from influenza. Further, there were registered 3 deaths from diphtheria, 4 deaths from scarlet fever, and 4 deaths from measles. Twenty-five persons died by violence.

Temporary measures against plague adopted in New South Wales.

(1) In the case of vessels arriving at this port after having berthed alongside a wharf at any port or place within His Majesty's dominions at which plague is, or is believed to be, prevalent, if they present a certificate from the duly constituted port health authorities that during such berthing the vessel has been fended off and otherwise adequately protected against access of shore rats, the board will accept such certificate and treat the vessel as though she had not so berthed alongside such wharf.

(2) In the case of vessels arriving from ports not within His Majesty's dominions no certificate whatsoever will be accepted as exempting from special treatment unless the precautionary measures taken to prevent access of shore rats to the vessel are described and attested by His Majesty's consular representative at the port or ports concerned.

(3) Vessels which have taken on board fodder or grain of any kind at, or forwarded from, any port infected or suspected of being infected with plague, are required to discharge in the stream with such precautions to avoid landing of rats as in each case may be deemed necessary by the board, and afterwards to be fumigated for destruction of rats before going alongside.

(4) Vessels which arrive under the conditions contemplated in the preceding regulation are subject to its provisions whether they arrive direct or not, and whether they present a certificate of fumigation at some port touched in the voyage or not.

The SURGEON-GENERAL.